IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of   :   March 10, 2009

T.D. Erickson, et al   Group Art No. 2145

Serial No. 10/628,217   Examiner: M. Kianersi

Filed: July 28, 2003   for IBM Corporation

                            Anne Vachon Dougherty

Title: AGENDA-DRIVEN MEETINGS   3173 Cedar Road

                            Yorktown Hts, NY 10598

DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT OR PUBLICATION (37 C.F.R. 1.131)

Commissioner for Patents
Sir:

1. This declaration is submitted to establish completion of the invention that is the subject of the above-referenced patent application in the United States at a date prior to February 2001, which is the earliest effective date of the Vogt patent publication, as cited by the Examiner in the prosecution of the above-identified patent application.

2. The people making this declaration are Thomas D. Erickson, Wendy A. Kellogg, Peter K. Malkin, and Tracee L. Wolf, the original joint inventors who are the present applicants for the pending patent application.

3. To establish conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference, coupled with due diligence from prior to said date to the filing of the application, the following attached documents are submitted as evidence:

a first draft of an invention disclosure entitled "Semi-Structured Conversation: Agenda Driven Meeting", dated October 2000;

a Disclosure submission created on November 15, 2000 and last modified on November 16, 2000;

"Notes on Semi-structured Conversations in the Loop" dated January 2001; and

a docket creation record from the IBM database indicating that a docket was created on April 4, 2003 to prepare a patent application for the invention disclosures.

From these documents, it can be seen that the invention in this application was conceived of at least by the date of October 31, 2000, which is a date earlier than the effective date of the cited Vogt reference, and that constructive reduction to practice, in the form of the filing of a patent application, was diligently pursued from the time of conception to the docketing date and the patent application filing date of July 28, 2003.

4.   As a person signing below:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or of any patent which may issue thereon.

Full name of inventor: Thomas D. Erickson

Inventor's signature _____

Date _March 9, 2009_____

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Residence _Minneapolis, Hennepin county,_____
_Minnesota, United States_____

Full name of inventor: Wendy A. Kellogg

Inventor's signature_____

Date_____

Country of citizenship_____

Residence_____

Full name of inventor: Peter K. Malkin

Inventor's signature_____

Date_____

Country of citizenship_____

Residence_____

Full name of inventor: Tracee L. Wolf

Inventor's signature_____

Date_____

Country of citizenship_____

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Full name of inventor: Thomas D. Erickson

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Country of citizenship_____

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Full name of inventor: Wendy A. Kellogg

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Ardsley, NY 10502

Full name of inventor: Tracee L. Wolf

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Date_____

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Full name of inventor: Thomas D. Erickson

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Date_____

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Residence_____

_____

Full name of inventor: Wendy A. Kellogg

Inventor's signature_____

Date_____

Country of citizenship_____

Residence_____

_____

Full name of inventor: Peter K. Malkin

Inventor's signature_____

Date_____

Country of citizenship_____

Residence_____
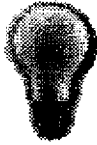
_____

Full name of inventor: Tracee L. Wolf

Inventor's signature _Tracellelly_

Date_ 10 March 2009_

Country of citizenship _US_

Residence_ 53 Eastern Ave, Ossining NY_

Westchester County

Disclosure YOR8-2000-1082

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By: Peter Malkin **Created On:** 11/15/2000 05:07:50 PM
Last Modified By: Peter Malkin **Last Modified On:** 11/16/2000 07:58:14 AM

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

*Title of disclosure (in English)

A Dynamic Graphical Representation of a Spatialized Process Showing Intermediate States to be used as a Social Resource for Supporting Collective Interaction.

Summary

Status	Under Evaluation
Processing Location	YOR
Functional Area	900 Goyal-Systems & Software
Attorney/Patent Professional	Robert P Tassinari/Watson/IBM
IDT Team	Robert P Tassinari/Watson/IBM
Submitted Date	11/15/2000 05:25:18 PM EST
Owning Division	RES.
Incentive Program	
Lab	
Technology Code	
PVT Score	42

Inventors with Lotus Notes IDs

Inventors: Peter Malkin/Watson/IBM, Thomas Erickson/Watson/IBM

Inventor Name	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Inventor Phone	Manager Name
Malkin, Peter K.	409607	22/LYZE	863-7872	Kellogg, Wendy A.
Erickson, Thomas D.	961775	22/LYZE	863-7577	Kellogg, Wendy A.

> denotes primary contact

Inventors without Lotus Notes IDs

IDT Selection

IDT Team:	Attorney/Patent Professional:
Robert P Tassinari/Watson/IBM	Robert P Tassinari/Watson/IBM

Response Due to IP&L : 12/16/2000

*Main Idea

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

The goal of an agenda-driven meeting (ADM) conversation is to allow a distributed work group, committee,
or task force to have an online, not necessarily synchronous meeting to review the status of various on-going
projects. An ADM is created by defining an agenda consisting of a list of items: the agenda, and each individual item, collectively define a set of rooms (or stages) within which each item is discussed. That is, an ADM consists of:

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- · To Do's (which may optionally be assigned to particular people)

- · Glosses (which are typically summaries of the state of an agenda item)

Objects, including rooms, can have various states:

- · Open/Locked: An object that is ·open· can be entered, edited, or answered, as appropriate;

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- · Glitter/No Glitter (relative to a user): ·Glitter· is a state that can be applied to an object by a user, to attract the attention of another user; it may have an optional note attached to it.

Finally, participants can take on one of several roles, each of which has permissions associated with it:

- Role\Activity Conversation Email Structuring Purpose of Role

- Chair rwx receive rwx Run meeting

- Participant rwx receive Normal participant

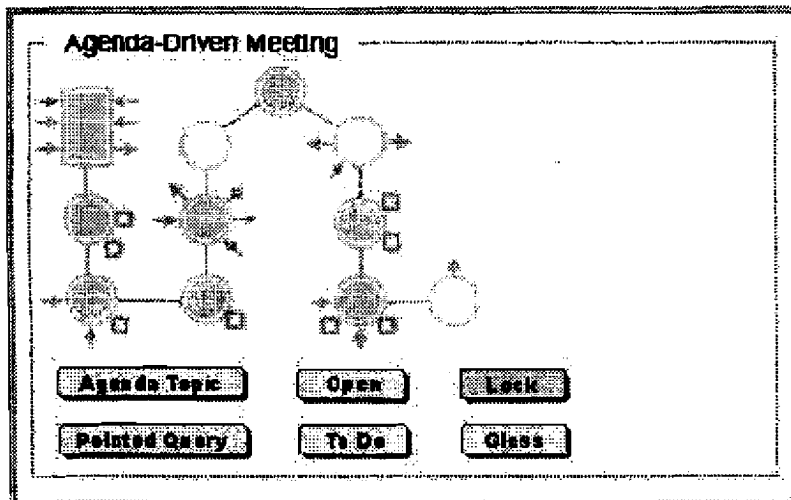- Lagger/Lurker r — Non-participant, or someone who will be out of email contact for duration of meeting

Modes of Use

As noted above, this is intended to allow groups to have online, not-necessarily synchronous status meetings. At
one extreme one could imagine that only the meetings chairs actually enter the online space, and they conduct
the entire meeting by sending out pointed queries, and using the responses to generate Glosses and To Dos. At
the other extreme, we could imagine a fully synchronous meeting, in which either everyone moves

synchronously from item to item, or in which participants spread out over the agenda, gravitating to the most
relevant topics, and filling in their statuses. In this pointed queries could be used to attract the attention of a
particular participant when their input is requred.

The ADM Landscape Proxy
The figure below shows the ADM Landscape proxy. It provides an overview of the entire ADM conversation,
and reflects the state of most of its objects

The ADM Room Proxy
The ADM Room proxy is fairly similar to the 'Babble Classic' proxy. It shows the participants synchronously
present in the room, and gives an idea of the recency of their activity in the usual manner. In addition, the room
proxy shows previous visitors around the outside of the room, using empty dots to designate someone not
present -- those who have visited since the users' previous visit to the room are shown in green so that the user
can tell who has been around since his/her last visit. Of course, the room proxy also shows the Pointed Query
iconnettes (arrows), and the todo iconnettes (boxes) and the gloss iconnettes (diamonds)..

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention",
including figures inline as appropriate)?

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those
others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure
details to others and the date of that implementation.

*Critical Questions (Questions 1-8 must be answered)

---

*Question 1

On what date was the invention workable? 11/15/2000 **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

---

*Question 2   ○ Yes ● No

Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to anyone outside IBM?

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
Publication/Patent:
Date Published or Issued:

Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this invention?   ○ Yes ● No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
Publication/Patent:
Date Published or Issued:

---

*Question 3   ○ Yes ● No

Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale, or included in a proposal?

Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal planned?   ○ Yes ● No

If Yes, identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale, announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be made.
Product:
Version/Release:
Code Name:
Date:
To Whom:
If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.

---

*Question 4

Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of non-IBMers?

If yes, give a date.   **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**   ○ Yes ● No

---

*Question 5   ○ Yes ● No

Have you ever discussed your invention with others not employed at IBM?

If yes, identify individuals and date discussed. Fill in the text area with the following information, the names of the individuals, the employer, date discussed, under CDA, and CDA #.

---

*Question 6   ○ Yes ● No ○ Not sure

Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?

If Yes, enter the contract number

---

*Question 7 Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?	○ Yes ● No ○ Not Sure
If Yes, enter the following :Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer	
Contract ID number	
Relationship contact name	
Relationship contact E-mail	
Relationship contact phone	

*Question 8 Have you submitted, or are you aware of, any related disclosure submission?	○ Yes ● No
If Yes, please provide the title and docket or disclosure number below:	

Question 9
What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? *Check all that apply.*

☐ Manufacturers of enterprise servers
☐ Manufacturers of entry servers
☐ Manufacturers of workstations
☐ Manufacturers of PC's
☐ Non-computer manufacturers
☐ Developers of operating systems
☐ Developers of networking software
☒ Developers of application software
☐ Integrated solution providers
☐ Service providers
☐ Other (Please specify below)

Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evalu
(The Patent Value tool can be used by the inventor(s) to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)
These are the answers which were entered into the Patent Value Tool. If you would like to modify these answers and recalculate the PVT score, click on the 'Calculate' button.

Market
What is the anticipated annual market size (in dollars) that will be captured by your invention?
$100M to $1B

CLAIMS
Question 1 - How new is the technical field?
Emerging
Question 2 - How central is the invention to the product(s) which might be expected to contain the invention?
Essential
Question 3 - What is the scope of the claim?
Broad

PORTFOLIO NEED
What are the portfolio needs in the area of your invention?
Listed in PPM Needs

EXPLOITATION & ENFORCEMENT
Question 1 - How easily can the use of the invention by a competitor be detected?
Trivially
Question 2 - How easily can the use of the invention be avoided by a competitor?
Unavoidable

BUSINESS VALUE
Question 1 - What percentage of the companies producing products in the field of this invention might use this invention?
Broadly cloned
Question 2 - What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Alliance Activity between IBM and other companies?
High value
Question 3 - What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Technology Transfer Activity between IBM and other companies?
High value
Question 4 - Does it result in prestige to IBM?
Industry wide

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings
Enter any additional information relating to this disclosure below:

(Form Revised 12/17/97)

Semi-Structured Conversation: Agenda Driven Meeting

The Basic Idea

The goal of an "agenda-driven meeting" (ADM) conversation is to allow a distributed work group, committee, or task force to have an online, not necessarily synchronous meeting to review the status of various on-going projects. An ADM is created by defining an "agenda" consisting of a list of "items": the agenda, and each individual item, collectively define a set of "rooms" (or stages) within which each item is discussed. That is, an ADM consists of:

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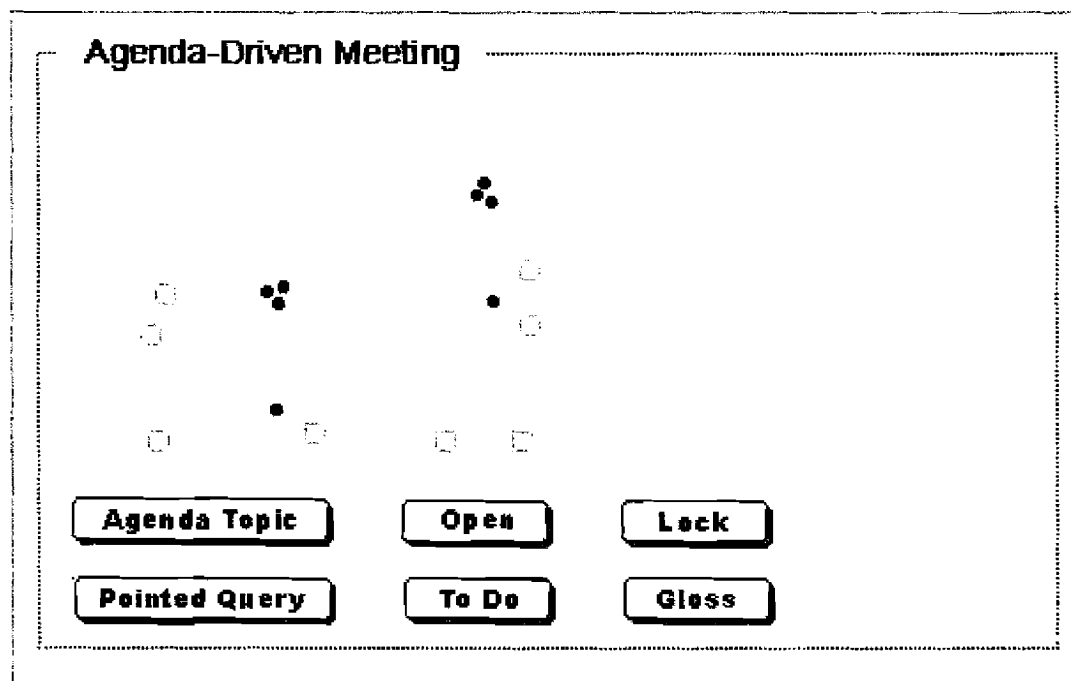
Role\Activity	Conversation	Email	Structuring	Purpose of Role
Chair	rwx	receive	rwx	Run meeting
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Lagger/Lurker	r	—		Non-participant, or someone who will be out of email contact for duration of meeting

Modes of Use

As noted above, this is intended to allow groups to have online, not-necessarily synchronous status meetings. At one extreme one could imagine that only the meetings chairs actually enter the online space, and they conduct the entire meeting by sending out pointed queries, and using the responses to generate Glosses and To Dos. At the other extreme, we could imagine a fully synchronous meeting, in which either everyone moves synchronously from item to item, or in which participants spread out over the agenda, gravitating to the most relevant topics, and filling in their statuses. In this pointed queries could be used to attract the attention of a particular participant when their input is requred.

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An Alternative ADM Landscape Proxy

The proxy below is a different visual representation of the previously shown landscape proxy. The only differences (beyond the removal of connecting lines between agenda 'items' (i.e. rooms) which incorrectly suggests a workflow) are the inclusion of the dots (aka marbles) within the items showing the synchronous presence of online participants, and the arrowed-boxes which represent agenda items proposed for the subsequent meeting.

Agenda Driven Meeting: February 8, 2001 (in progress)
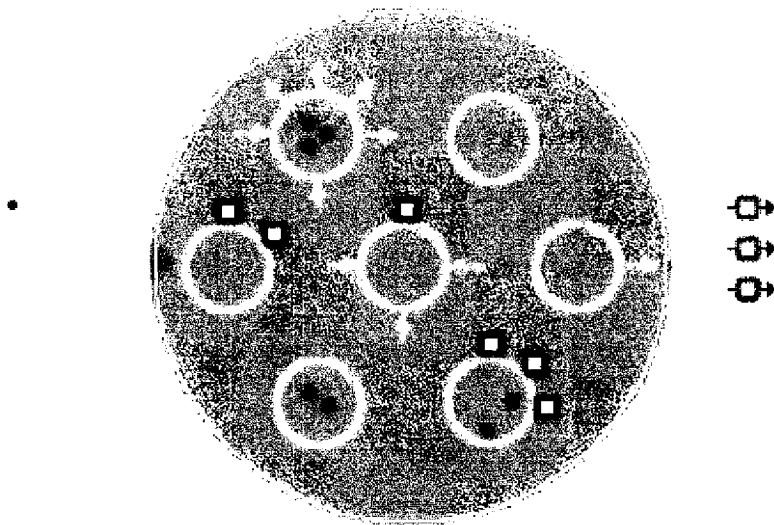
Notes on Semi-structured Conversations in the Loop

Tom, January 2001

These are some thoughts on the design and implementation of semi-structured conversations in the context of Loops. The goal is to be a bit clearer about the components of such conversations, and, in particular, to try to define out very minimal implementations which can be done with a minimum of effort, using as much pre-existing functionality as possible.

I   The Brainstorming Semi-structured Conversation

1. Components of a Brainstorming Semi-structured Conversation (SSC)

A brainstorming SSC consists of the following components:

Conversation Phases, each of which has
* **Rules**: Pre-defined rules (embodied as text) whose purpose is to inform users of what they *ought* to be doing.
* **Conversation**: The normal persistent (Babble-like) conversation produced by users.
* **Products**: What is produced in the conversation that will be used in the next phase (e.g. in the "Generate Ideas" phase the products are ideas); products can either be identified and 'marked' (so that the system 'knows' what they are), or users can keep track of them.
* **Properties**: Properties embodied in the interface that support the function of a particular conversation phase (e.g. user ID's might be suppressed in the idea generation phase).
* **Actions**: User-invoked commands associated with each phase (e.g. go to next phase).

The particular form of brainstorming conversation we've talked about so far has the following phases, with the following components (components in italics are optional for the minimal implementation):

	Identify Goals	Generate Ideas	Summarize	Rate
Rules	• Define goals for session • Define duration of each phase	• No criticism • Produce lots of ideas • Be playful • Think laterally	• Work with ideas from previous phase • Combine similar ideas • Elaborate and clarify • Describe relationship to goals, if not evident	• Rank & order ideas
Conversation	--default --	--default --	--default --	--default --
Properties	--default --	*User IDs suppressed*	--default --	--default --
Products	goals	idea text	• identified, elaborated, coalesced ideas drawn from previous phase's conversation	ordered list
Actions (note all actions are public -- that is they apply to everyone)	• Go to next stage • *Mark as Goal* • *UnMark*	• Go to next stage • Go to previous stage	• Go to next stage • Go to previous stage • *Mark as Idea* • *UnMark*	• Done • Go to previous stage • *Rate Idea*

2. The Minimal Model for the Brainstorming SSC

Here's what I see as the minimal version of a brainstorming SSC:

2.1. The conversation has separate phases

2.2. For each phase of the conversation

    a) The other phases can be read/copied but cannot be written

    b) There are one or two actions* associated with that phase: move to next/previous phase. These actions make the next/previous phase writable, and the other phases read-only [*note: the actions apply to all members of a conversation]

    c) Text -- i.e. phase products -- can copied from the conversation and pasted (and edited) and displayed in an always-visible area (which can scroll if necessary) ....i.e. we want them to appear separately from the conversation field

    d) Rules are displayed in the (enlarged) dialog box that appears when users go to post something: this puts the rules in-their-face at the appropriate moment).

2.3. Implementation: I can imagine the above being implemented by:

    a) Making the Brainstorming SSC a type of room

    b) Making each conversation phases a sub-room

    c) Writing code that allows only one sub-room to be writable, and force; only, and providing an interface widget that allows users control over (e.g. that would be the previous/next phase action)

    d) Defining an editable/scollable text field in which products of a conve. placed, and making that field visible in the next phase of the conversation.

    e) Changing the "Create a Comment" dialog box so that it can display the Rules for the current conversation phase.
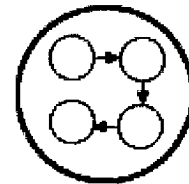
3. A Somewhat Less Minimal Model for the Brainstorming SSC

Of course, it would be nice to do a bit more. The following assumes the minimal model, and suggests some hopefully not-too-labor-intensive additions.

3.1 *Products* (goals from the first phase of the session; ideas from the second phase of the session; ranked and combined ideas from the third phase of the session), can be selected and tagged in the conversation field. Then they automatically show up in a special, always-visible, scrollable text field so that they can be easily used in the next phase. It follows from this is that there is an extra *Action* for doing tagging these *Products*.

3.2 The conversation proxy might give some indication not only of the people associated with the phase and the recency of their activity, but the number of intermediate products produced for a phase.

3.3 Other Actions. Time permitting, we might add other actions that support various phases of brainstorming, such as randomize (a selected string of text) or oblique strategies (pulls a random quotation from a list and posts it

3.4 Properties.For brainstorming it would be nice to suppress all user IDs during the Idea Generation phase (both in the proxy, and in the posting headers)

3.5 Implementation possibilities

    a) (For 3.1) There would need to be phase-specific Actions that tag selected text as a product (e.g. goal, idea, ranked idea)

b) (For 3.1) It would be nice if, once tagged, the text in the conversation area was visibly changed (e.g. turned into boldface, or simply surrounded by *s.
c) (For 3.1) We already need an always-visible text field, so that's nothing new
d) (For 3.2) We would need to be able to add elements to the subroom and room proxies as Products were tagged.
d) (For 3.3 and 3.4) Depends on what sort of action/propety is to be implemented

Docket

Disclosure YOR8-2000-1082
Merged Disclosures YOR8-2001-0404

Title
AGENDA DRIVEN MEETINGS

Status	Pending
File date	28-Jul-2003
Abandon date	
Application number	10/628217
Priority date	28-Jul-2003
Processing location	YOR
Responsible attorney	Lisa M Yamonaco/Watson/IBM
Task attorney	
Task administrator	Wendy R Petrovich/Watson/IBM
Outside counsel firm	Anne Vachon Dougherty (VLF)
Technology code	
PPM tech area	600 - Software/Services/Applications/Solutions
PPM rating	
Application jurisdiction	US
Application type	Regular
Intellectual property type	Utility Patent
Patent ownership	IBM Only
Owning division	RES
Owning functional area	909 User interfaces, multimodal system and software technologies
PPM selected countries	

To view this patent on the web site, click -->

Inventor Name	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Inventor Phone	Manager Name
> Malkin, Peter K.	409607	22/LYZE	863-7872	Kellogg, Wendy A.
Erickson, Thomas D.	961775	22/LYZE	863-7577	Kellogg, Wendy A.
Wolf, Tracee	2A0034	22/LYZE	863-7413	Kellogg, Wendy A.
Kellogg, Wendy A.	155353	22/LYZE	863-7826	Morrow, Lewis A.

> denotes primary contact

Main Idea for Disclosure YOR8-2000-1082
Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Archived On 06/05/2003 01:03:55 AM

Title of disclosure (in English)
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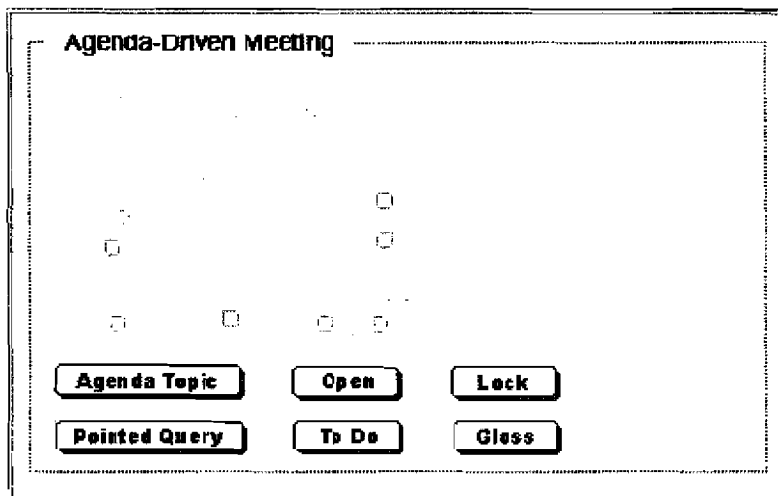
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relevant topics, and filling in their statuses. In this pointed queries could be used to attract the attention of a
particular participant when their input is requred.

The ADM Landscape Proxy

The figure below shows the ADM Landscape proxy. It provides an overview of the entire ADM conversation,
and reflects the state of most of its objects

The ADM Room Proxy

The ADM Room proxy is fairly similar to the 'Babble Classic' proxy. It shows the participants synchronously
present in the room, and gives an idea of the recency of their activity in the usual manner. In addition, the room
proxy shows previous visitors around the outside of the room, using empty dots to designate someone not
present -- those who have visited since the users' previous visit to the room are shown in green so that the user
can tell who has been around since his/her last visit. Of course, the room proxy also shows the Pointed Query
iconnettes (arrows), and the todo iconnettes (boxes) and the gloss iconnettes (diamonds)..

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention",
including figures inline as appropriate)?

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those
others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.